

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

SUITE 2320 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301

(202) 225-6371

TTY: (202) 226-4410

<http://www.house.gov/science/welcome.htm>

November 2, 2005

Dr. Ralph Cicerone
President
The National Academy of Sciences
500 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Dr. Cicerone:

I am writing to ask you to empanel a balanced group of scientists to provide Congress with expert guidance on the current scientific consensus on the paleoclimate record, and particularly on the work of Drs. Michael Mann, Raymond Bradley and Malcolm Hughes (the so-called "hockey stick" thesis).

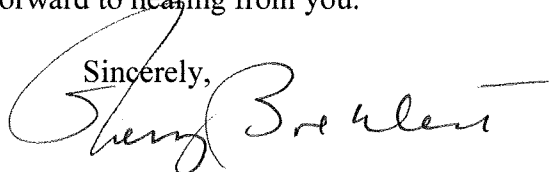
The group should, in a clear and concise report issued in a relatively short period of time, answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the current scientific consensus on the temperature record of the last 1,000 to 2,000 years? What are the main areas of uncertainty and how significant are they?
- 2) What is the current scientific consensus on the conclusions reached by Drs. Mann, Bradley and Hughes? What are the principal scientific criticisms of their work and how significant are they? Has the information needed to replicate their work been available? Have other scientists been able to replicate their work?
- 3) How central is the debate over the paleoclimate temperature record to the overall scientific consensus on global climate change (as reflected in previous reports from the Academy)? How central is the work of Drs. Mann, Bradley and Hughes to the consensus on the temperature record?

The model for this undertaking should be the work of the excellent panel you chaired in 2001 in response to a request from President Bush, which summarized the state of science concerning global climate change.

It is important that Congress be guided by the considered opinion of leading scientists on this important matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



SHERWOOD BOEHLERT
Chairman